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Top Secret

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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Industrial Facilities
(Non-Military)

Basic Imagery Interpretation Report

Chi-lin Carbide Plant

Chi-lin, China

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Top Secret

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DATE MAY 1970
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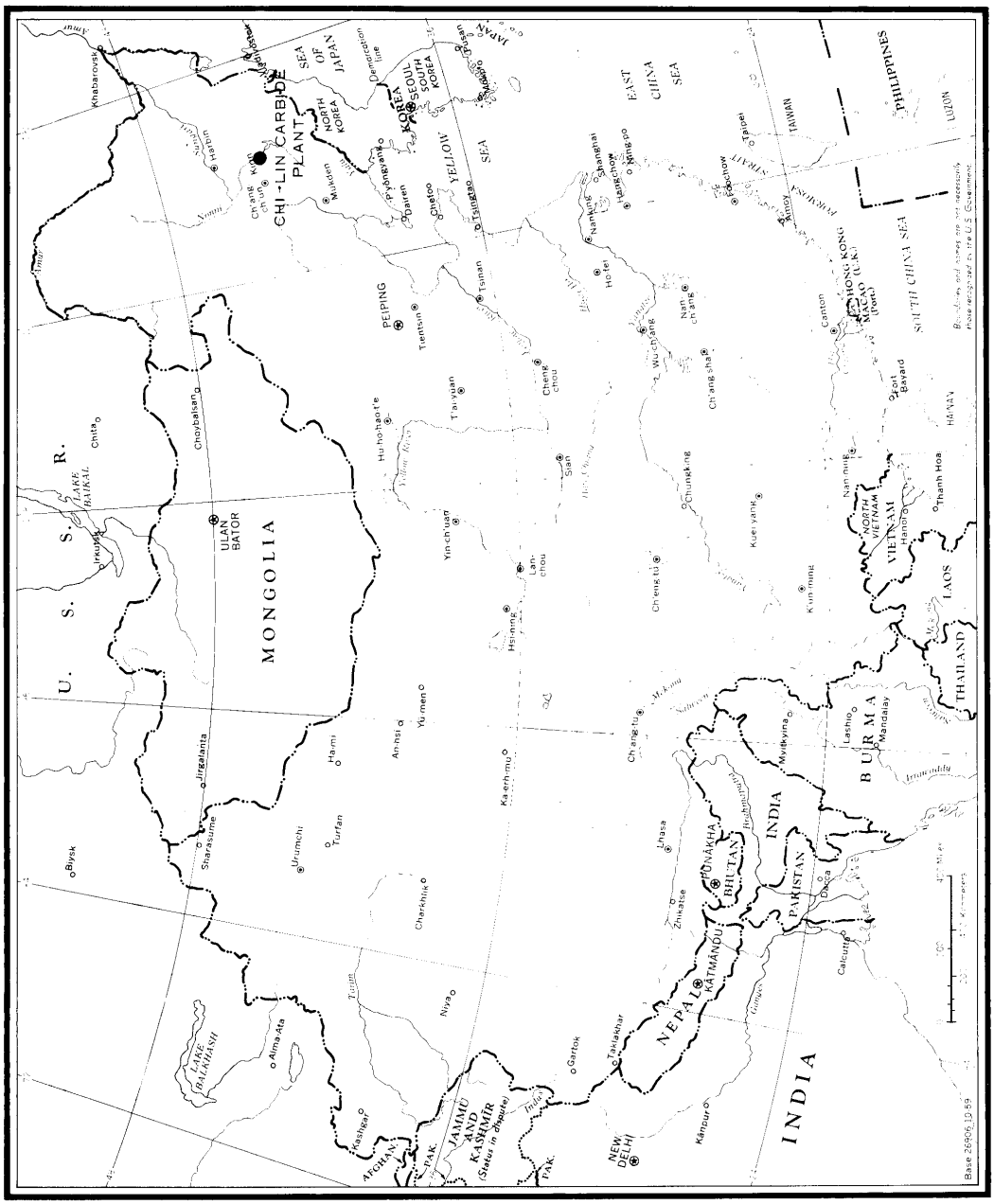

FIGURE 1. LOCATION MAP.

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INTRODUCTION

Chi-lin Carbide Plant is located in Chiang-pei Industrial Complex, about 3 nautical miles north of the center of Chi-lin, Kirin Province (see Figure 1). Steam is supplied to the plant by the nearby Chi-lin Heat and Thermal Power Plant . Electric power is received from the regional grid through the Chi-lin Transformer Station

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Chiang-pei Industrial Complex also contains Chi-lin Dyestuffs Plant) and Chi-lin Machinery Plant No. I According to collateral information, Chi-lin Synthetic Fiber Plant and Chi-lin Synthetic Rubber Plant are also within the complex, but they have not been identified on photography. 1/ 2/

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BASIC DESCRIPTION

Physical Features

The plant occupies an area approximately 5,420 by 2,890 feet and contains about 360 acres (see Figures 2 and 3). It is served by rail spurs from the Chi-lin to Hsin-chan rail line. Two roads enter the plant on the south side.

Operational Functions

Photography indicates that this is a large integrated chemical plant which produces a wide range of chemicals. Its products include calcium carbide, acetylene, acetic acid, hydrochloric acid, hydrogen, chlorine, caustic soda, a variety of coking by-products and derivatives, and possibly phosphorus. The flow process for the plant is shown in Figure 4.

Collateral information indicates that synthetic rubber, polyvinyl chloride, and calcium cyanamide are also produced at this plant. 1/ 2/ The specific facilities for the manufacture of these three products have not been identified from photography. However, materials necessary for their production are available as a result of other production processes within the plant and they could be produced in the unidentified areas (Areas I, J, and M). The Chinese have reported that one of the calcium carbide furnaces was converted to the production of ferrosilicon. 3/ Such a conversion would not change the external features of the furnace building and therefore would not be detectable on photography.

Construction Chronology

In June 1962, when the plant was first seen on overhead photography, the major facilities were complete and operating in all production areas except the acetic acid production area (Area H) and an unidentified production area (Area M). Between June 1962 and September 1964, the acetic acid production facilities were completed, two production buildings were constructed in Area M, and a building was constructed in another unidentified production area (Area J). By November 1965, a hydrochloric acid facility and an unidentified production building had been added in Area M. Since that time, various support facilities, unidentified buildings, and additions to existing buildings have been constructed throughout the plant.

Operational Status

The plant was in operation in June 1962 and on all subsequent photographic coverage through November 969. This was indicated by smoke emanating from the coke batteries, the calcium carbide furnace building, and the possible phosphorus production area, by ample raw materials such as limestone, coal, and possibly phosphate ore in the storage areas, and by fluctuations in the number of rail cars in the caustic soda area, the possible ammonia and phenol recovery areas, the coke by-products storage tank area, and the coal receiving area.

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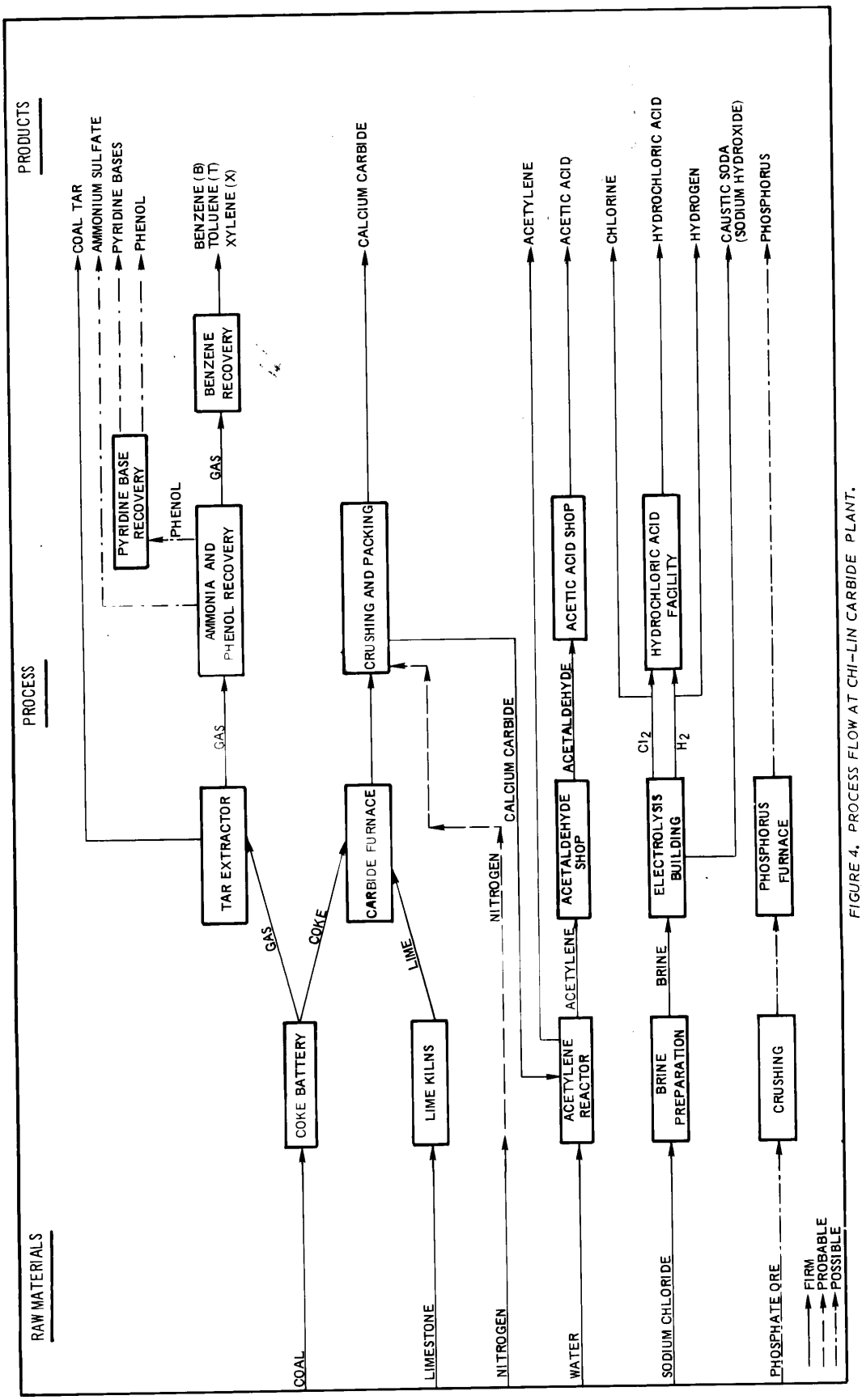

FIGURE 4. PROCESS FLOW AT CHI-LIN CARBIDE PLANT.

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REFERENCES

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Map

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US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet MO290-3HL, 3rd edition, July 1965, Scale 1:200,000, (SECRET

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Documents

1. CIA. CRS 1092967-D, Construction and Production at the Chi-lin Chemical Industrial Base, June 1959 (Unclassified)

2. CIA. CRS 1092967-D, USACRAPAC 1364 IR ELISION, Chi-lin Carbide Plant, August 1958 (Confidential)

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3. CIA China, October 1958 (Official Use Only)

Requirement

COMIREX NO2
Support Number 420505

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